

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178837

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG APER WFP

SUBJECT:POSITION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WFP

REF: EMBASSY MEMCON CONCERNING DISCUSSION WITH ROGER BULL

FOR DCM BEAUDRY AND COUNSELOR NORRED FROM IO LEWIS

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY ALERT CONCERNING VIEWS BEING VOICED BY CANADIAN COUNSELOR, ROGER BULL.
2. ON JULY 19, I DISCUSSED CANADIAN INTEREST IN WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION WITH CHARGE RUSSELL MCKINNEY AND CANADIAN AGRICULTURE ATTACHE JAMES HILL. (MEMCON WILL FOLLOW.) IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION, I TOLD THEM I TOOK CONSIDERABLE UMBRAGE AT THE TONE AND CONTENT OF STATEMENTS VOICED IN ROME BY THEIR COLLEAGUE AND WISHED TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.
3. I TOLD THE CANADIANS THAT THE U.S. HAS NEITHER SOUGHT NOR LOBBIED FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION. MOREOVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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I SAID THE RUMORS REPORTED BY BULL, TO THE EFFECT THAT

THE U.S. WOULD REDUCE ITS WFP CONTRIBUTION IF WE FAILED TO OBTAIN THE POSITION, WERE ABSURD. WHILE THE UNITED STATES HAS PRESENTED A CANDIDATE FOR THE WFP DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION, AND I HAVE SPOKEN TO BOTH WALDHEIM AND SAOUMA IN THIS RESPECT, IT IS NOT TRUE THAT PRESSURE HAS BEEN EXERTED IN THAT CANDIDATE'S BEHALF.

4. WHEN AN OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD ALSO COMMENT ALONG THE SAME LINES TO AN APPROPRIATE CANADIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL. KISSINGER

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